The Development of cultures

Vincent Malinauskas.

The climate, resources and environment of where a culture develops are the most important factors to how the culture develops. The resources the people have to use and the climate they must survive dictate how they survive and thrive. The two cultures in this discussion are the Egyptians and the aborigines of Australia. These two cultures developed on two separate continents and had some similarities, but developed very differently. The climate, resources and environments greatly effected how they developed. These two cultures also show how different ends of the spectrum look for cultures around the world.

The aborigines of Australia are a culture which has not changed in many years until colonization from other countries especially the British. In Australia the climate in the center of the continent is dry and warm; this climate makes up the majority of the continent. The outer edge of the continent is covered with wetlands and jungle. Australia does not have major rivers running through its center instead there are streams in the outback. This makes this culture different because many other cultures formed around rivers. The aborigines thus developed as a nomadic people and often did not have major settlements in a location due to the lack of a good location to permanently settle.

Building was also difficult to accomplish for the aborigines as there was little forest inside of the continent and thus made it difficult to construct large scale buildings. This also contributed to the fact that the aborigines were nomadic often with multiple places they lived and moved to. The area also could not support major crops and so they would have to have a diet of smaller plants such as roots and herbs. The wildlife also would become a major part of their diet. Australia shows that when the terrain cannot support major crops and has wildlife present often cultures remain nomadic and remain hunter gatherers. Technologically and in population size this culture never grew to be very strong and never left the hunter gatherer stage of cultural development.

In Australia the lack of resources kept the aboriginal people in the stage of hunter gatherer and their population was never able to grow very large. They also could not advance in technology very far because surviving in this region was more difficult and left less time for building and researching. If the climate of this area had provided an easier task of survival then they could have developed further in other ways such as architecture or technology like the Egyptians. The environment effected how the culture developed and how far it was able to develop by the conditions to survive in and the resources that were available to the people.

To look on the other end of the spectrum in Egypt there is also a dry desert climate, however there is a major river system in the Nile running through its territory creating some fertile land. The Nile River delta acted as a beacon for settlement and drew in the people into a consolidated culture. Grains in the region also acted as a major crop and the settled peoples could farm vast quantities of it. This developed Egypt into an agricultural nation. Also there were not forests in the area the same as Australia, however with the major river system and the culture being settled gave them the time and reason to develop buildings and find ways to build using mud and straw bricks.

Egypt was also originally two nations, upper and Lower Egypt, each along the Nile. Lower Egypt had the Nile delta and more farm land surrounding it. This allowed it to support more people with more food; Upper Egypt had the Nile, but not as much farmland and had a lower population. When the two sides ended up fighting Lower Egypt won due to its larger population and farmland to support it. Egypt grew into one of the most powerful nations of the ancient world.

The factors in how Egypt became so strong were that it had a water source that could provide good farmland and building materials. This meant that survival was easier and major crops could be planted, permanent buildings could also be constructed and so it encouraged the growth of a nation. Also the dry climate around Egypt could not support human life as well so surrounding cultures were smaller and Egypt could remain dominant. Finally with the river, crops and good farmland to help the population grow and stay strong there was more time and more man power to work on feats of architecture and to develop technology such as irrigation systems and written languages.

The main factors in the development of these two nations are the resources at hand and the climate. If you had switched the roles the aborigines would have become the stronger culture with the more advanced technology and larger population. If you could add a major river in Australia and good farmland I think that it would have developed like Egypt. These cultures and all others developing in different parts of the world show how much climate and resources effected how cultures developed. In closing, cultures that develop near major rivers tend to become sedentary and set up permanent settlements. Cultures that develop in areas that have small sources of water become nomadic. Resources in the area affect how cultures develop because it is what they have to work with. Forests provide for lumber and the construction of buildings, rivers and wheat can form mud bricks for large building structures. Food sources animal and plant affect the size of a population that a culture can have due to the resources to support it. The area where a culture develops is the most important factor for how the culture develops.

Comments on developing cultures

Vincent Malinauskas

Sample Good comments.

1. This argument seems good and it does provide historical facts as support, but there could be more facts added. The mention of Upper and Lower Egypt is important, but other things could be added about Egypt, the pyramids go unmentioned even if they don’t really have a lot to do with how the culture developed. Adding in some information about the aborigine and Egyptian tools may also be beneficial.
2. The argument does a good job comparing two different cultures that developed very differently from each other. The range in how the cultures turned out gives a good variety and the argument about the resources being the main factor in this is very good. The comparisons between the cultures also gave support to the argument.

Sample Bad Comments

1. I really liked this essay it was quite good.
2. I disagree the cultures didn’t develop due to their environment it was the people that learned how to adapt better. This essay is wrong and the argument presented is not true and shouldn’t be supported.